

1 3. An electrical connector comprising:

2 a housing; and,

3 a rigid genderless electrical contact mounted within said housing, said rigid  
4 genderless electrical contact having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and distal  
5 end, said distal end [having] terminating in a planar initial electrical contact  
Q2 6 engaging surface portion with the plane thereof intersecting the longitudinal axis  
7 at a predetermined angle and an arcuate final electrical contact engaging surface  
8 portion, said initial and final electrical contact engaging surface portions being  
9 positionally maintained within said housing to permit repeatable electrical  
10 engagement with planar initial and arcuate final electrical contact engaging surface  
11 portions, respectively, of a corresponding rigid genderless electrical contact.

1 5. The electrical connector of claim 3 further comprising:

2 a spring element mounted within said housing and bearing against said rigid  
3 genderless electrical contact to spring load the rigid genderless electrical  
4 contact.

1 6. The electrical connector of claim 3 wherein said rigid genderless electrical  
Q3 2 contact includes an electrical conductor engaging element.

1 7. The electrical connector of claim 3 wherein said housing also is rigid  
2 genderless so that the electrical connector can mate with another electrical  
3 connector having a corresponding rigid genderless housing and a rigid genderless  
4 electrical contact.

1        8.     An electrical connector assembly comprising:

2             a first electrical connector comprising:

3                 a housing; and,

4                 a rigid genderless electrical contact mounted within said  
5                 housing, said rigid genderless electrical contact having a  
6                 longitudinal axis, a proximal end and distal end, said  
7                 distal end [having] terminating in a planar electrical  
8                 contact engaging surface portion with the plane thereof  
9                 intersecting the longitudinal axis at a predetermined  
10                angle;

11            a second electrical connector comprising:

12                 a housing; and,

13                 a rigid genderless electrical contact mounted within said  
14                 housing, said rigid genderless electrical contact having a  
15                 longitudinal axis, a proximal end and distal end, said  
16                 distal end [having] terminating in a planar electrical  
17                 contact engaging surface portion with the plane thereof  
18                 intersecting the longitudinal axis at a predetermined  
19                angle;

20        said first and second electrical connector rigid genderless electrical contacts  
21        being electrically engagable with each other with the planes of the planar  
22        electrical contact engaging surface portions intersecting the longitudinal axes at  
23        substantially the same predetermined angle and with the planar electrical contact  
24        engaging surface portions being positionally maintained within their respective  
25        housings so that said planar electrical contact engaging surface portions are  
26        substantially parallel at the moment of their electrical engagement thereby  
27        permitting repeatable electrical engagement with minimal contact bounce thereof.

1        9.    An electrical connector assembly comprising:

2            a first electrical connector comprising:

3                a housing; and,

4                a rigid genderless electrical contact mounted within said  
5                housing, said rigid genderless electrical contact having a  
6                longitudinal axis, a proximal end and distal end, said  
7                distal end [having] terminating in a planar initial  
8                electrical contact engaging surface portion with the plane  
9                thereof intersecting the longitudinal axis at a  
10                predetermined angle and an arcuate final electrical contact  
11                engaging surface portion;

12           a second electrical connector comprising:

13                a housing; and,

14                a rigid genderless electrical contact mounted within said  
15                housing, said rigid genderless electrical contact having a  
16                longitudinal axis, a proximal end and distal end, said  
17                distal end [having] terminating in a planar initial  
18                electrical contact engaging surface portion with the plane  
19                thereof intersecting the longitudinal axis at a  
20                predetermined angle and an arcuate final electrical contact  
21                engaging surface portion;

22        said first and second electrical connector rigid genderless electrical contacts  
23        being electrically engagable with the planes of the planar initial electrical  
24        contact engaging surface portions intersecting the longitudinal axes at  
25        substantially the same predetermined angle and with the planar initial electrical  
26        contact engaging surface portions being positionally maintained within their  
27        respective housings so that said planar initial electrical contact engaging surface  
28        portions are substantially parallel at the moment of their electrical engagement  
29        thereby permitting repeatable electrical engagement with minimal contact bounce  
30        thereof.

1 13. An electrical contact assembly of a plurality of rigid genderless electrical  
2 contacts comprising:

3 an integrally formed, longitudinally extending rigid genderless  
4 electrical contact having:

5 [having] a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, an  
6 intermediate portion and a distal end, said distal end  
7 [having] terminating in a planar electrical contact  
8 engaging surface portion with the plane hereof intersecting  
9 the longitudinal axis at a predetermined angle;

10 and,

11 web means for connecting at least two of said plurality of  
12 electrical contacts together in spaced apart relation.

04 1 14. The electrical contact assembly of claim 13 wherein said web means connects  
2 said at least two rigid genderless electrical contacts together at the intermediate  
3 portions thereof.

1 15. The electrical contact assembly of claim 13 wherein said web means  
2 is integrally formed with said at least two rigid genderless electrical connectors.

1 17. An electrical contact assembly of a plurality of rigid genderless  
2 electrical contacts comprising:

3 an integrally formed, longitudinally extending rigid genderless electrical  
4 contact having:

05 5 a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, an intermediate  
6 portion and distal end, said distal end [having]  
7 terminating in a planar initial electrical  
8 contact engaging surface portion with the plane thereof  
9 intersecting the longitudinal axis at a predetermined